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(54) Title: VMP-LIKE SEQUENCES OF PATHOGENIC *BORRELIA* SPECIES AND STRAINS

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to DNA sequences encoding Vmp-like polypeptides of pathogenic *Borrelia*, the use of the DNA sequences in recombinant vectors to express polypeptides, the encoded amino acid sequences, application of the DNA and amino acid sequences to the production of polypeptides as antigens for immunoprophylaxis, immunotherapy, and immunodiagnosis. Also disclosed are the use of the nucleic acid sequences as probes or primers for the detection of organisms causing Lyme disease, relapsing fever, or related disorders, and kits designed to facilitate methods of using the described polypeptides, DNA segments and antibodies.

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